

Lethbridge

SUNNY SOUTHERN ALBERTA

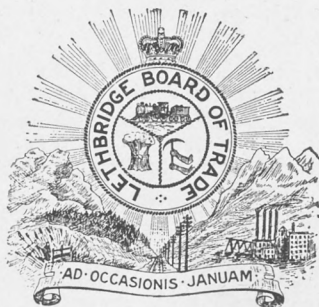
CANADA

FACTS FOR
FARMERS



25

FACTS
FOR THE FARMER
ABOUT
DRY LAND AND IRRIGATION FARMING
— IN —
Sunny Southern Alberta
CANADA



Published October, 1911,
—by—
Lethbridge Board of Trade.

J. L. MANWARING,
Secretary.



his booklet is confined to information regarding Agriculture. Beyond brief mention of the splendid and ever increasing home market it affords, nothing whatever is said about the tremendous coal mining and general industrial development that is taking place in Southern Alberta and in the Crow's Nest Pass district of British Columbia, immediately to the west of Lethbridge. For information regarding the commercial and industrial openings and opportunities thus afforded, write the Secretary, Board of Trade, Lethbridge, Sunny Southern Alberta, Canada.

Dry and Irrigated Farming.

There is today no place in the West where farming of all kinds can be carried on with more profit, for the capital and work invested, than in the LETHBRIDGE district.

Here there is a large irrigation system owned and operated by the Alberta Railway and Irrigation Co., this however does not mean that irrigation is necessary for successful farming.

Farming without irrigation or dry farming as it is called to distinguish it from irrigated, is the back-bone of the district.

Of the 442,200 acres in wheat, oats and barley in the district this year, only some 40,000 was on irrigated land, the balance of 402,200 acres being on dry land, without irrigation.

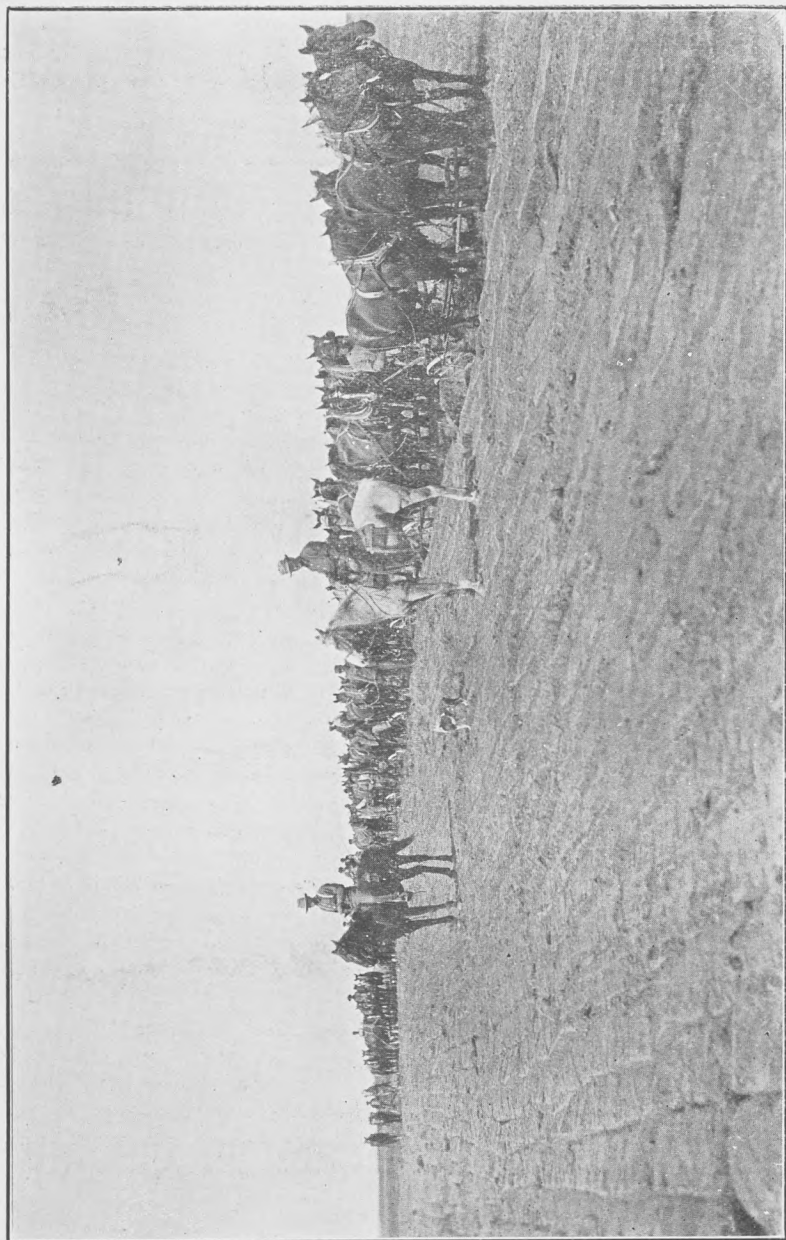
Such crops as Alfalfa, Timothy, Sugar Beets, Small Fruits and Market Gardens will, however, give a larger yield with irrigation making it very profitable to use for these crops.

THE GRAIN CROP

Southern Alberta is noted as a Wheat District, and especially as a winter wheat district, being the home of the celebrated Alberta Red Winter Wheat. Other grains can be grown here to advantage, but it is sometimes said that the farmers here are wheat crazy and other grains are not given a fair show being usually put in because the farmer thinks when he gets ready to sow it is too late to sow wheat.

The government Crop Reports for the district (Crop Districts 1-2-3-4-5) were as follows for the years 1909 and 1910:

1909	Acres	Bushels	Average
Spring Wheat	147,241	2,740,045	18.60
Winter Wheat	58,923	1,524,902	25.87
Oats.	67,271	2,450,071	36.44
Barley	2,974	83,559	28.09
	276,409	6,708,577	
1910	Acres	Bushels	Average
Spring Wheat	110,114	879,763	7.98
Winter Wheat	65,345	1,075,119	16.46
Oats.	8,214	138,538	16.85
Barley	229	3,070	13.40
Other grains	34	22	65
	184,036	2,096,512	



BREAKING THE RAW PRAIRIE OF SUNNY SOUTHERN ALBERTA

Sixty bushels of wheat and 125 of oats are yields that are often harvested, and a great many men get 35 to 40 of wheat and 60 to 80 of oats. There is nothing to hinder any man doing as well as the best of these. It is not a matter of luck, but of careful, intelligent farming.

There is no difficulty about the proper method to follow in order to secure the best results and Mr. Fairfield of the Experimental Farm, writes as follows regarding it:

PREPARATION OF RAW LAND FOR THE FIRST CROP OF GRAIN

"Break the ground during the wet season of May and June and roll it down flat immediately after the plow, this connects the furrow slice with the sub-soil and facilitates the rotting process.

"The common practice is to break 4 to 5 inches deep. Further cultivation should be shallow; no attempt should be made to cut through the sod with the discs but merely enough to form a mulch on top of the sod to prevent rapid evaporation. If one is prepared to do this surface cultivation after a rain while the sod is moist, the land will work economically and to better advantage. Enough work should be done to get sufficient loose soil to fill in the cracks between the sods. To accomplish this, one double discing, two harrowings (one should be crosswise) with an ordinary harrow will sometimes be sufficient, but as a rule, it requires one double discing, one harrowing, another double discing, and then it should be floated and harrowed.

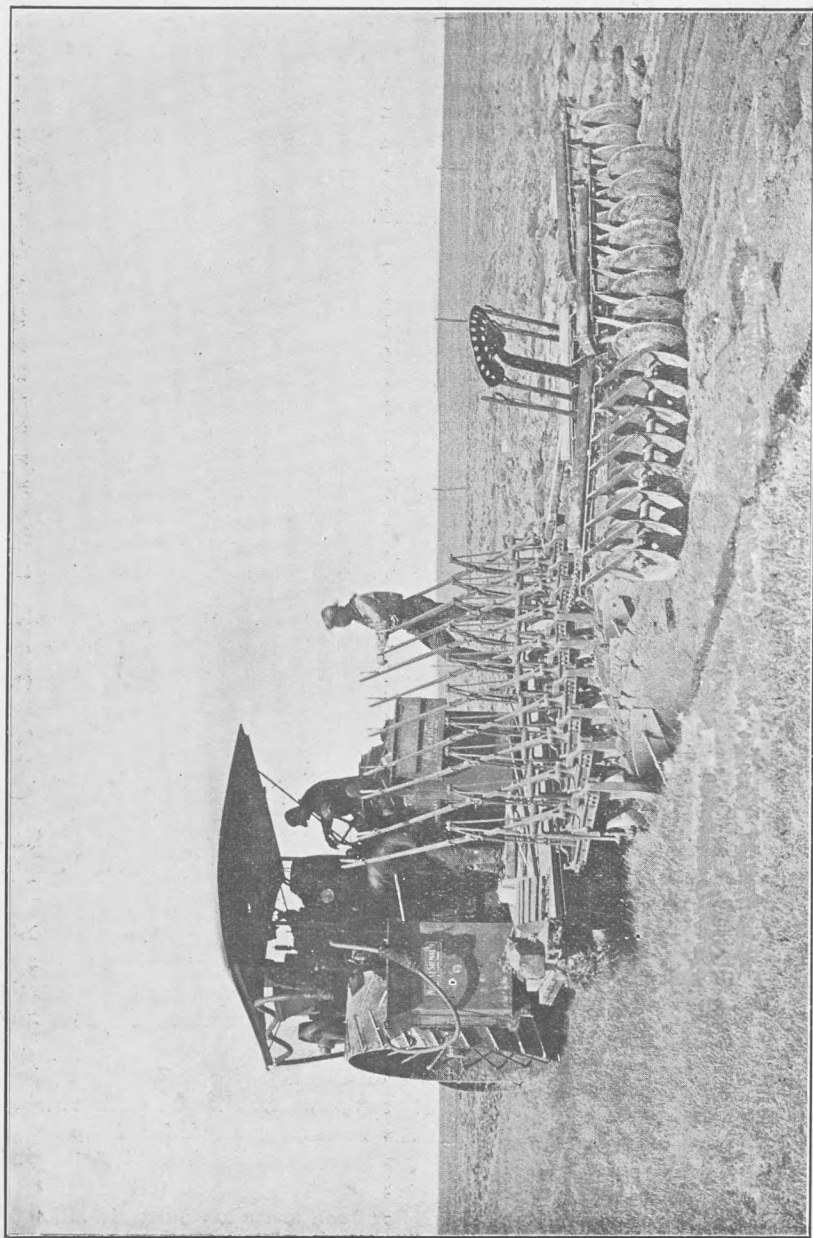
"If this is done the sod will rot sufficiently during the summer to be loose and in good condition for growing a crop the following spring.

"If Winter wheat is to be sown, the best time to put it in is during the last part of August, but if Spring grain is to be sown, the land is allowed to lie in this condition till the following April when a good harrowing immediately after the frost draws out will prepare the land sufficiently for the seed drill. For best results from Spring grain the land should be given the same surface preparation in July as if Winter wheat was to be sown.

"Backsetting, although not commonly in vogue, is a practice that cannot be too highly recommended. The only change necessary in breaking is that it should be done shallower, 2 1-2 inches if possible.

"The sods are rolled down and in the latter part of the summer the land is plowed again about two inches deeper than it was broken or as deep as the root fiber has rotted in the sub-soil which is usually about two inches, the land is immediately harrowed after this plowing or if necessary harrowed and disced.

"Considerable land during the past few years has been broken in April and immediately sown with grain. Although fair results are often obtained in this way, it is not a practice that can be recommended, for if the season is dry the resulting crop may be disappointing, and on account of the sods not having had a chance to rot properly, the second crop is not nearly as good as after breaking the land in May or June and allowing to lie fallow all summer.



BREAKING AND DISCING WITH STEAM POWER

"The best amount of seed to sow per acre in this district has not yet been fully determined, however, about 60 lbs. of Winter wheat and about 70 of Spring wheat, oats or barley is probably not far from the right amount."

COST OF OBTAINING THE FIRST CROP

The cost of obtaining the first crop is a question in which new settlers are always interested and was about as follows, per acre, when let by contract this year.

The farmer does not need to pay this out, however, as he can do a large amount of the work himself, and the second crop will not cost as much as the first, as a common practice is to put the second crop in the stubble with a disc seeder without plowing.

Breaking new land	\$3.50
Double discing .....	.75
Double harrowing .....	.50
Seed.	1.25
Seeding .....	.50
Cutting and stooking	1.25
Twine .....	.50
Threshing from stook (30 bush.)	2.70

Total per acre\$10.95

AVERAGE PRICE OF GRAIN

The average price of grain at the elevators here the past season has been as follows per bushel: Wheat 85 cents; barley 40 cents, and oats 23 cents, which figuring only the average yield gives a good profit on the first crop and a larger one on the second.

ALFALFA

Alfalfa, undoubtedly the best forage plant known to modern farming, is grown here most successfully.

On irrigated land 3 to 6 tons per acre and on dry land 2 to 4 tons per acre are average crops per year and this when baled sells for \$12 to \$14 per ton, although in 1910 it sold at \$22 per ton.

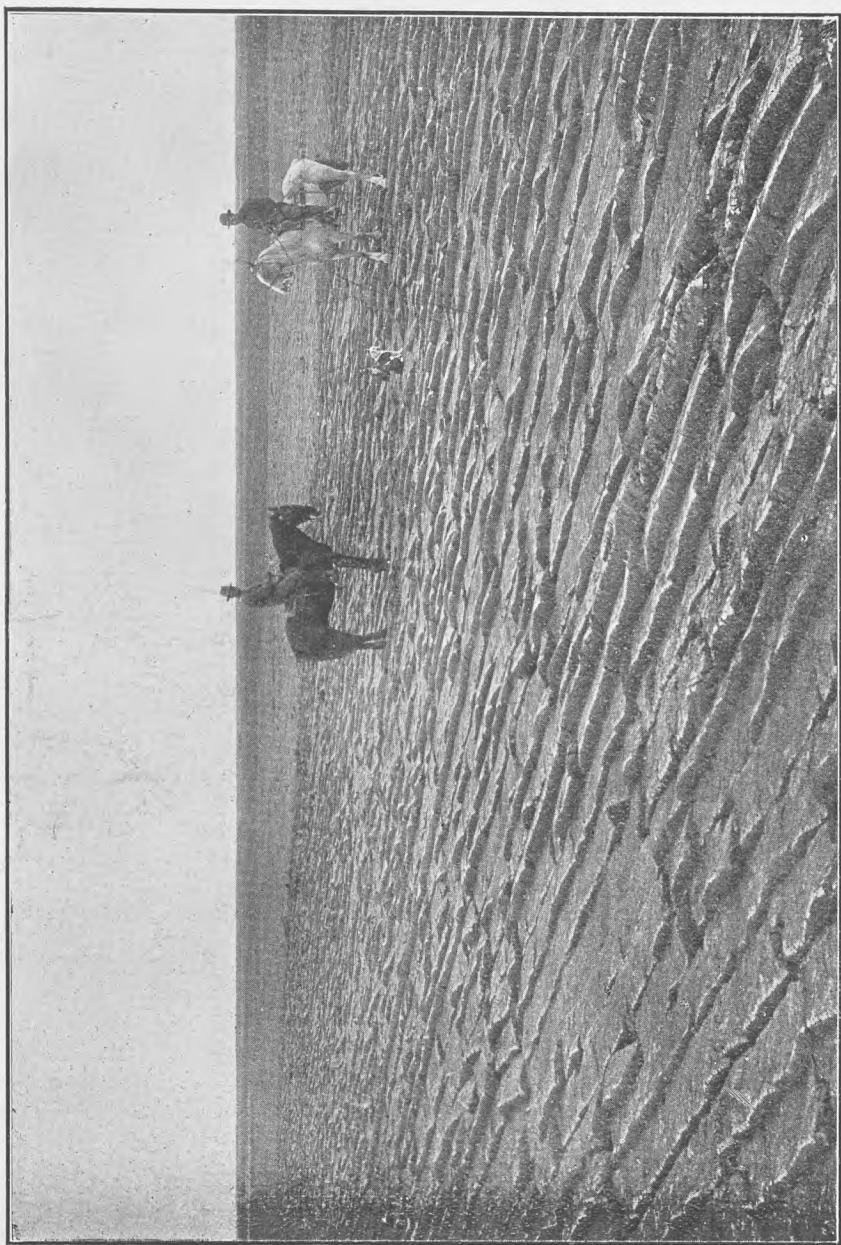
Soil for inoculation can be obtained from the Experimental Farm at a nominal charge.

Mr. Fairfield of the Experimental Farm in his pamphlet "Alfalfa Growing in Southern Alberta" concludes as follows:

"Use summer fallow or land in which root crops have been grown the previous season. Do not plow it but prepare a shallow seed bed. Inoculate the land with about 150 pounds of soil from an old alfalfa field and work it in while the seed bed is being prepared. Sow the seed in the latter part of May or early in June at the rate of 20 pounds per acre on irrigated land and less on dry land.

"Do not use a nurse crop.

"The first season do not neglect to run the mowing machine over the land before the weeds get too high and cut it a second time if practicable."



BROKEN LAND EXTENDS AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE

SUGAR BEETS

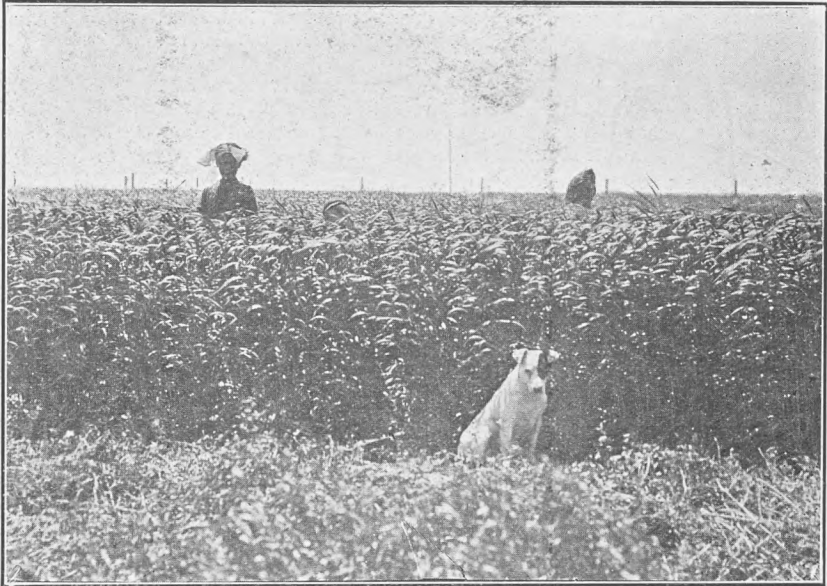
"Eighteen miles to the south of **LETHBRIDGE** at Raymond is a large Beet Sugar Factory.

Beets can be raised on new land if after breaking it up from the sod a crop of grain is raised and then summer fallowed for one year.

One man can take care of about 15 acres and help can be obtained to take care of more.

On dry land the crop averages 8 to 10 tons per acre and on irrigated land has gone as high as 22 tons per acre.

It costs about \$26.00 to raise a crop of 10 tons to the acre, a larger tonnage costing a little more, and the factory pays \$5.00 per ton for the beets at the factory.



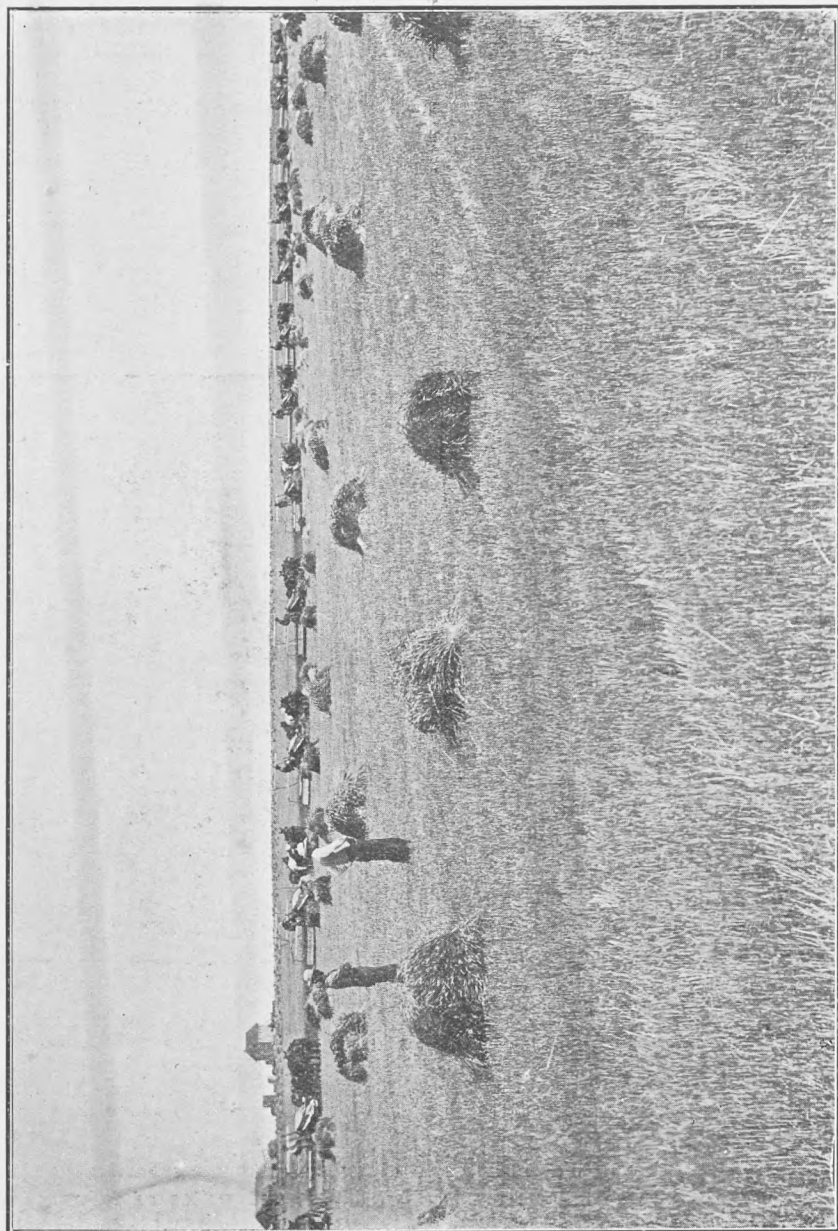
A FINE CROP HERE

SMALL FRUITS

All kinds of Small Fruits grow here to perfection. Raspberries, Strawberries, Currants, etc., all do well and are paying propositions either on a large scale or in the kitchen garden.

Mr. H. P. Gatrell had 16 acres in strawberries and raspberries in 1911. He is situated three miles from **LETHBRIDGE**, and writes as follows:

"This portion of Southern Alberta is eminently adapted for the growing of small fruit, particularly raspberries and strawberries.



TWELVE BINDERS AT WORK IN WINTER WHEAT FIELD NEAR LETHBRIDGE

"When its capabilities in this respect are more thoroughly appreciated it will be the principal strawberry growing district in Western Canada, not excepting the famous B. C. fruit lands.

"Strawberries grown here and shown at the different fairs in the country were pronounced by all who saw them to surpass any others shown, both in appearance and flavor.

"I have been growing both berries for the market here for five years and am more satisfied each year, and this year am doubling the acreage.

"There is a splendid market for all the fruit that can be raised and prices are excellent, strawberries averaged last year \$3.40 per crate of 24 quarts wholesale, and retailed at \$4.25 per crate. At the same time imported berries were selling at \$3.25 and \$3.50 retail. Raspberries sold for about \$2.75 per crate of 24 pints wholesale.

"The strawberry plants when set out will bear well for two years and taking one year with another the expense will be about \$60 per acre and picking will cost two cents per quart.

"With care and attention a man can easily realize a profit of \$300 to \$500 per acre per year.

"I am working on irrigated land but if a deep rooted variety be selected and planted early in the Spring just before our heavy rains in May and the ground kept thoroughly cultivated to hold the moisture, berries will do well on dry land.

"A number of farmers living within a few miles of **LETHBRIDGE**, to whom I have supplied plants during the past three years, have reported that they have an excellent stand of both berries and had an abundant supply of fruit on **DRY LAND**."

MARKET GARDENS

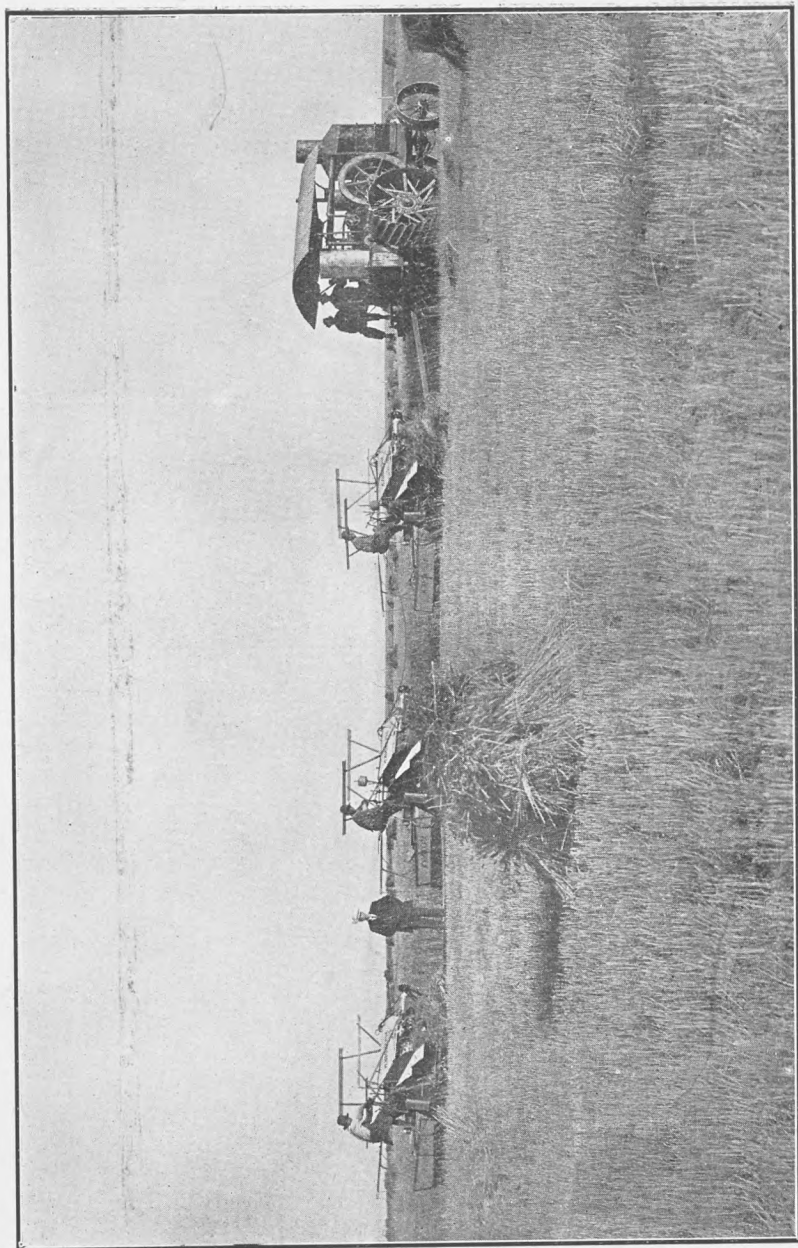
Most, if not all of the Market Gardens here are on irrigated land as the returns from the garden will be larger than without irrigation and in fact most market gardens with which we are familiar in other districts have some means of putting on water artificially.

All kinds of vegetables, such as corn, lettuce, peas, cabbage, cauliflower, cucumbers, celery and all roots grow here to perfection and there is a much larger local demand for them than the local supply, large quantities being shipped in from a distance.

With the long, bright, sunny days and plenty of water from the ditch, there is an excellent chance for the practical gardener who is willing to work.

KITCHEN GARDENS

Any farmer with a little energy can have a kitchen garden which will supply his table with all kinds of fresh vegetables in their season, stock his cellar with them for the winter, and have a surplus which can be sold for more than the cost of running the garden.



SCORES OF GASOLINE ENGINES ARE USED IN SOUTHERN ALBERTA HARVEST FIELDS

THE MARKET

There is one very important fact which should be borne in mind by the man who contemplates engaging in the growing of small fruits and garden produce in the **LETHBRIDGE** district, and it is this: The demand right here in **LETHBRIDGE** is much greater than the supply, and high prices prevail. The consumption in the city itself and in the many coal mining towns which surround it, and extend through the Crows' Nest Pass into the mountains to the west of it, is reaching tremendous proportions. Locally the production is not nearly sufficient to supply this demand and the price is fixed by the prices that prevail at Chicago, Winnipeg, or Pacific Coast points, with heavy freight charges added. The man who grows small fruits or garden produce, or engages in intensive farming near **LETHBRIDGE**, therefore gets the whole of this high price himself. He does not have to pay out two-thirds of his receipts in heavy freight rates or middlemen's commissions. The market is right at his door and there is not a better or higher market for the producer on the American continent. This condition must continue to prevail for many years to come.

DAIRY FARMING

Dairy and milk farms are profitable undertakings in this district, the mild winters robbing them of much of the hard work that usually goes with them.

Good feed is plentiful and there are very few days in winter when milch cows cannot be turned out to feed from the stack.

Milk delivered at the house in **LETHBRIDGE** sells for 10 cents per quart and good table butter at from 30 to 40 cents per pound.

POULTRY FARMING

Mr. Cook, of the Eden Rest Poultry Farm, **LETHBRIDGE**, writes as follows:

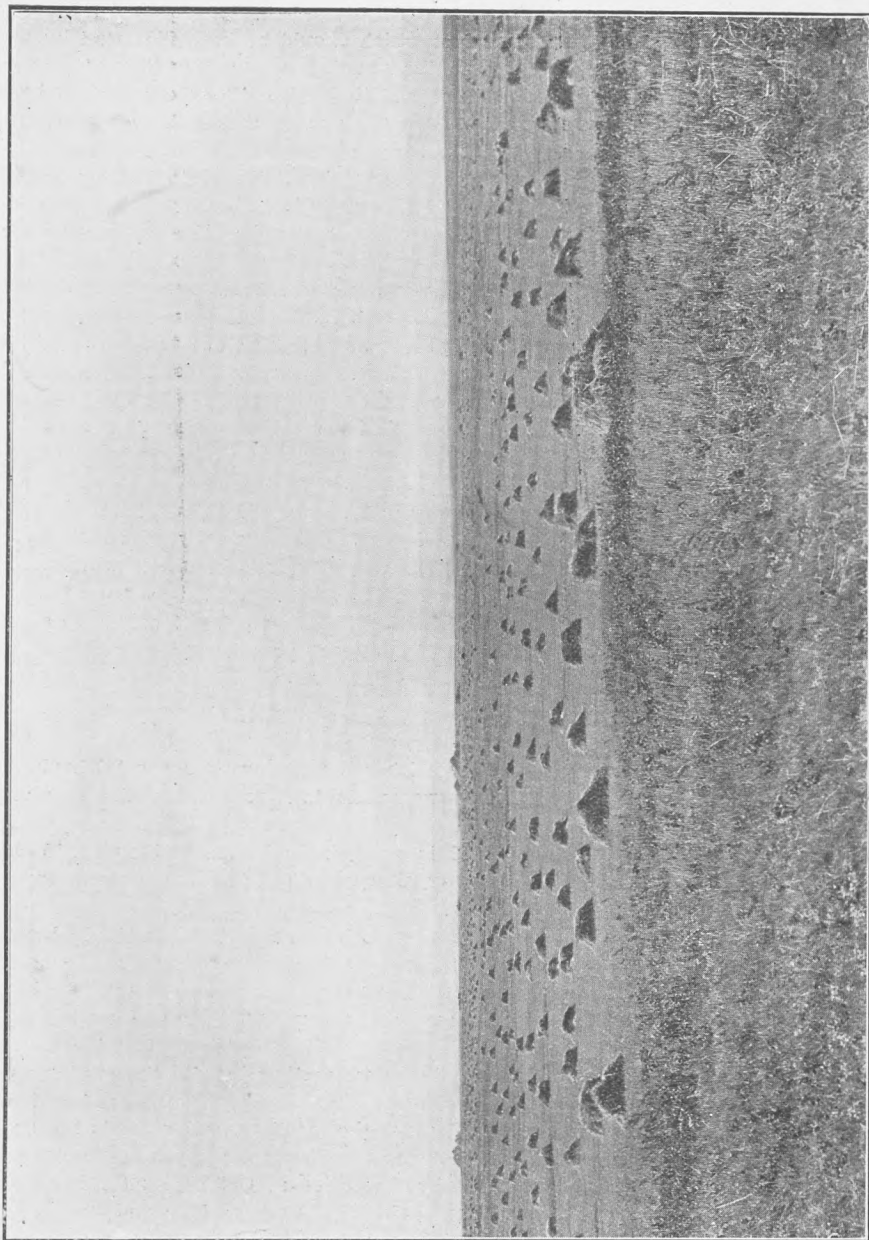
"Poultry keeping in connection with the farm or as a special business in Southern Alberta can be made very profitable if reasonable care be given the fowls.

"Poultry of almost every kind is easily raised here and owing to the greater length of daylight in summer, the young can be brought to maturity much more rapidly than in the east.

"In the matter of housing, our climate is such that the fowls do better living as near the open as possible, yet having protection from the cold nights. Houses built on the open front plan are best and cheapest. The best ones are just large enough for 50 hens and the material for one costs \$27.00 in **LETHBRIDGE**.

"Situated on the main line of railway connecting us with the mining and lumber industries of British Columbia, we shall always have a good market for surplus eggs and poultry. At present the local demand exceeds the supply and large quantities are imported into the district each year.

In 1910 eggs retailed at the following prices: October and November, 45 cents; December, 50 cents; January, 1911, 60 cents; February, 50 cents; March and April, 35 cents; May, 25 cents; June and July, 30 cents; August and September, 40 cents.



A TYPICAL AUGUST SCENE - MILES AND MILES OF SHOCKED GRAIN

"During the past four years good dressed fowls have never retailed for less than 20 cents per pound, spring chickens from the time they are ready up to the middle of November 25 cents per pound, dressed, but not drawn. Turkeys with the head and feet on and not drawn sell for 25 to 32 cents per pound.

"Taking into consideration how cheaply feed can be produced and the high prices eggs and poultry sell for we feel satisfied there is no place in any country where Poultry Farming can be carried on more pleasantly and profitably than in Southern Alberta."

RAIN FALL AT LETHBRIDGE FOR NINE YEARS

(Taken from the Government reports)

	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	Avg.
Jan.	0.67	0.62	0.50	1.45	0.22	1.52	0.27	0.49	0.08	0.82	.66
Feb.	1.03	0.79	0.90	0.05	0.20	0.30	0.75	0.28	0.80	0.51	.56
March ...	0.48	0.89	1.03	0.74	0.54	0.34	1.10	0.37	0.10	0.42	.60
April ...	0.01	0.33	0.41	0.56	1.30	1.08	0.67	1.51	0.32	0.89	.70
May ...	11.27	2.95	2.86	1.33	8.60	1.14	2.78	4.27	0.73	2.32	3.82
June ...	5.68	1.12	1.80	2.68	2.31	3.64	7.64	0.62	0.69	4.67	3.08
July ...	5.95	1.86	0.96	1.44	0.83	1.43	0.41	1.94	0.08	2.33	1.72
Aug. ...	0.69	3.21	1.19	1.99	4.70	2.30	0.89	0.21	0.78	4.04	2.00
Sept. ...	0.84	1.60	0.52	0.80	0.16	3.24	0.73	0.49	1.88	....	1.14
Oct.	0.02	0.18	0.85	1.13	1.93	0.05	1.16	0.40	0.65	....	.70
Nov.	0.43	0.58	0.03	1.36	0.81	0.14	0.02	0.53	0.45	....	.48
Dec.	0.84	0.70	0.35	0.25	0.88	0.32	0.25	0.54	0.84	....	.56
	27.91	14.83	11.40	13.78	22.48	15.50	16.67	11.65	7.36	16.00	15.73

AVERAGE PER YEAR FOR THE PAST NINE YEARS 15.73 INCHES.

This yearly average, however, is not a true indication of the rain as it affects the growing crop and an examination of the figures will show that for ten years the average for the month of May is 3.82 inches, for June 3.08 inches and for July 1.72 inches.

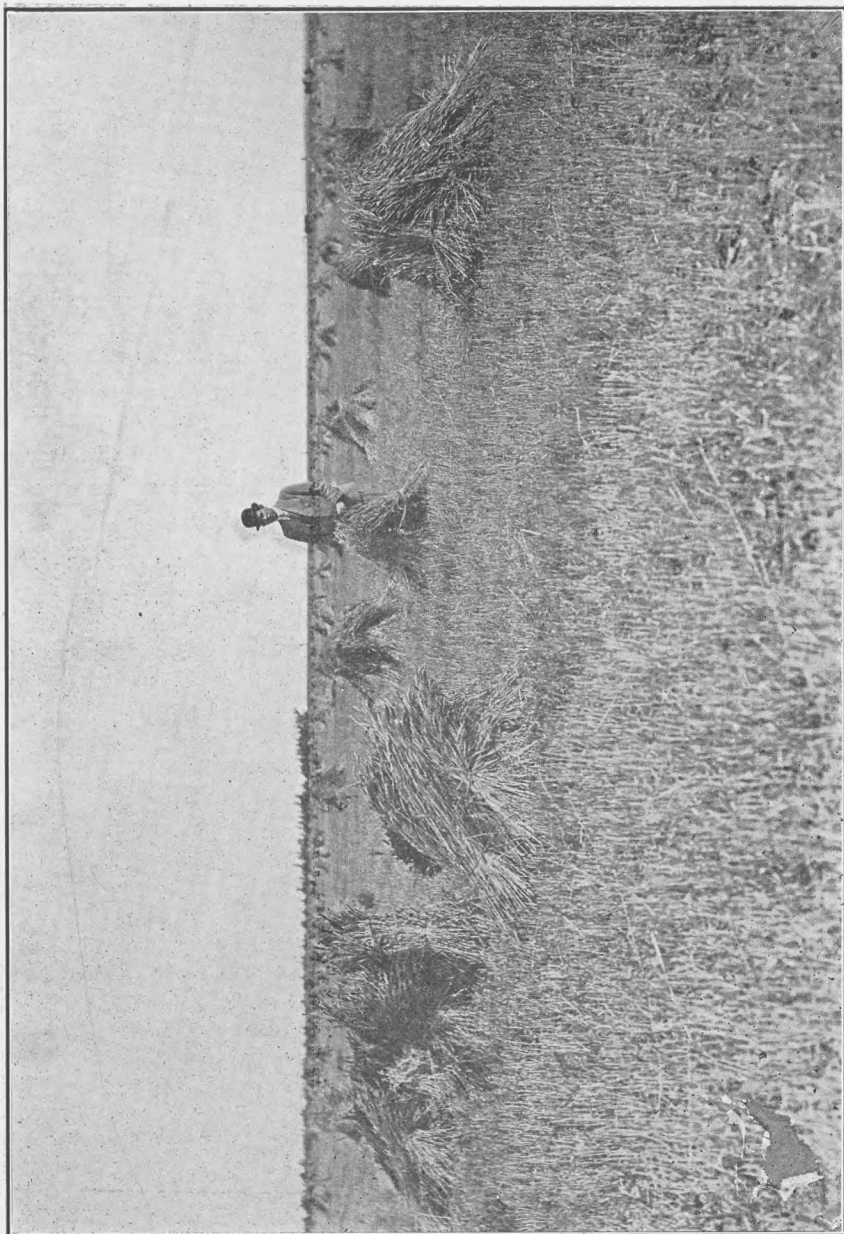
That is, the yearly average for the months when the crop is growing is 8.62 inches and this amount of rain fall at that times insures a first class crop.

WEATHER

LETHBRIDGE is situated directly east of the Crows Nest Pass in the Rocky Mountains and through this pass gets the Chinook winds which give it a mild and fine winter; there is very little sleighing, when the snow falls the Chinook soon eats it up.

Fall and winter are a succession of bright sunny days with very little cold weather or storm.

Owing to the influence of the Chinook the crop season opens earlier in the spring and frost holds off longer in the fall than in districts immediately south or north of **LETHBRIDGE**. Plowing usually continues through November and this spring (1911) began the first week in March.



A FINE CROP.—NOTE THE THICKNESS OF THE SHOCKS

SUNSHINE.

The following table showing the amount of sunshine enjoyed for the past three years will explain why this district is called **SUNNY SOUTHERN ALBERTA**:

The instrument which records the sunshine does not make a record except for BRIGHT sun, neither does it make a record for about the first hour and a half the sun is up in the morning, nor for the last hour before it sets at night, as it is not bright enough then, therefore at least two hours can be added to the table for each day.

Number of Hours	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Sun above horizon....	267	280	370	414	480	487	491	441	378	337	270	252	4467
Reg. hours: 1908.....	115	100	151	202	185	254	360	309	217	151	124	143	2311
Reg. hours: 1909.....	120	123	194	231	231	302	346	379	241	186	89	102	2544
Reg. hours: 1910.....	170	116	152	248	279	339	361	242	197	173	120	82	2478

TAXES

Taxes are very small on farm property, in districts where there is no school from \$4 to \$10 per quarter section, and where there is a school from \$6 to \$16, and cannot by law exceed \$16 per quarter.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The government takes care of the main roads and bridges and the roads are uniformly good with few or no hills.

Automobiles run the year round on them at a rate of 25 miles per hour without any difficulty, and a farmer with four light horses often brings 100 bushels of wheat 15 miles or more to the elevator.

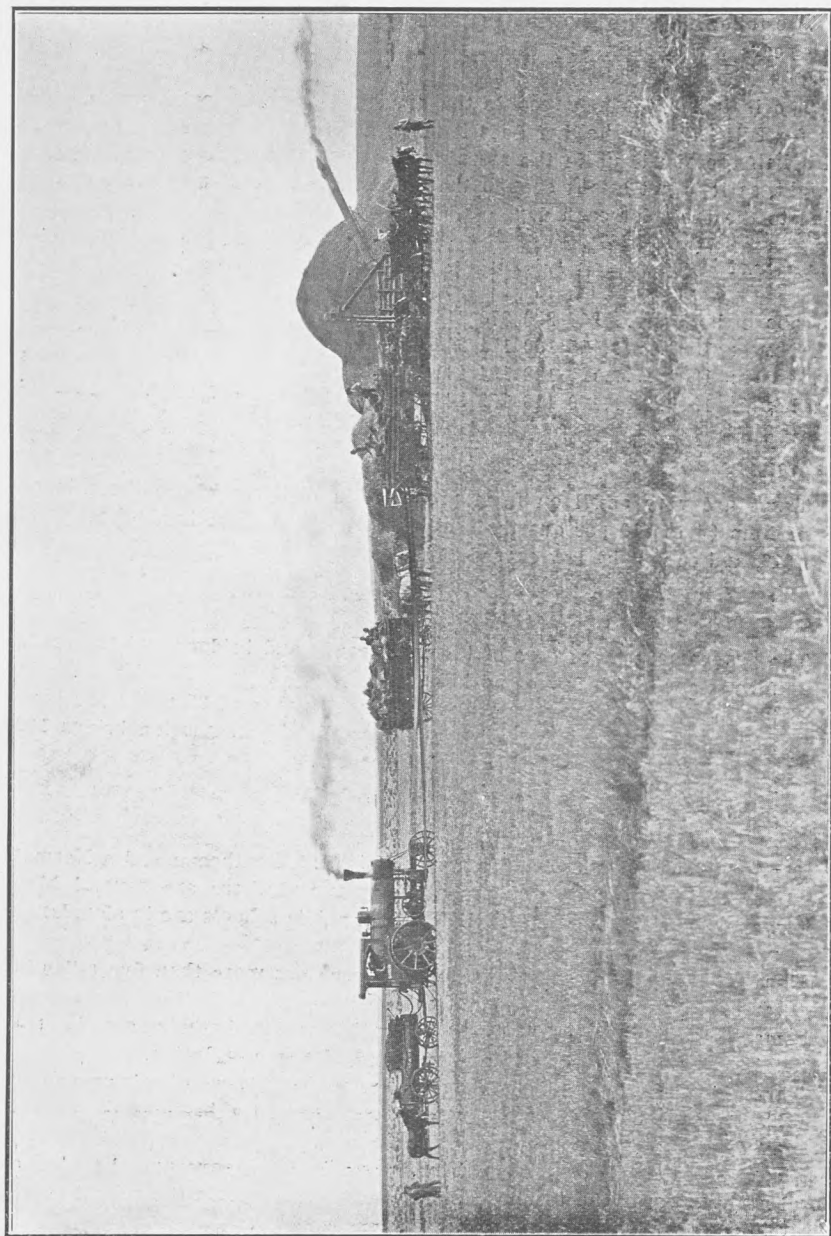
SCHOOLS

A provincial university has been established at Strathcona and a Normal school for the training of teachers at Calgary and there are several high schools, one of which is at **LETHBRIDGE**, and public schools are in abundance all over the province.

New schools can be easily obtained, any area not more than five miles in length or breadth having four actual residents who would be liable to assessment may be organized into a school district, provided there are in the district 12 children between the age of 5 and 16 years inclusive.

This school district can issue debentures for the purpose of raising money to build a school house, the payment of which forms the basis of the school tax on the land in the district.

The cost of maintaining the school is small as the government makes a liberal grant towards the teacher's salary, and also inspects the school twice a year to see that it is kept up to the proper standard.



THRESHING SPRING WHEAT NEAR LETHBRIDGE

FUEL

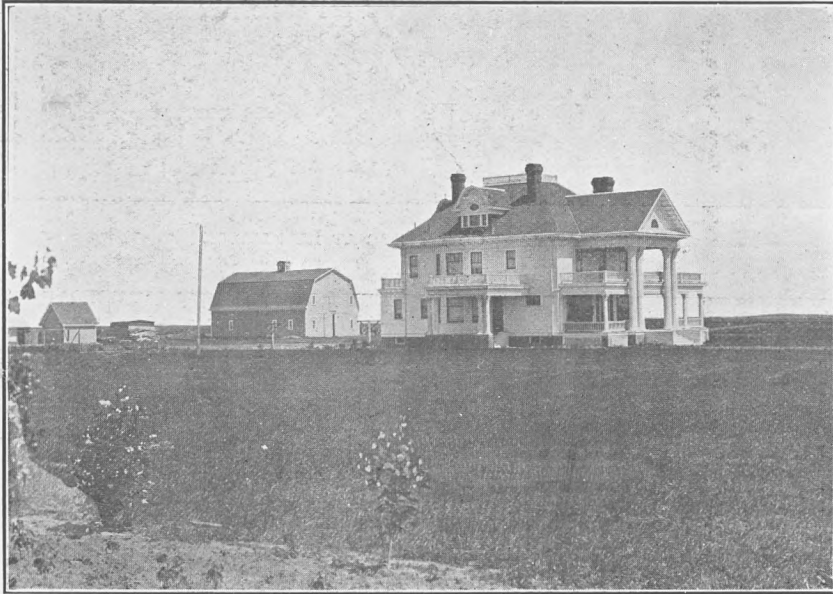
There are five large coal mines at **LETHBRIDGE** where the farmer can buy coal at \$3.60 per ton. There are also a number of small mines scattered about the district where the farmer can buy coal at \$2.50 and \$3.00 per ton.

EXPERIMENTAL FARM

A great advantage to all farmers in the district is the Government Experimental Farm situated two miles from **LETHBRIDGE**, and in charge of one of the best known agricultural authorities in the West, Mr. W. H. Fairfield.

Here the farmer can obtain advice and information that can be depended on to be strictly correct and which it would take the individual farmer years of toil and loss to learn for himself.

This is an important feature in this district, as its value, especially to the new settler, cannot be over-estimated.



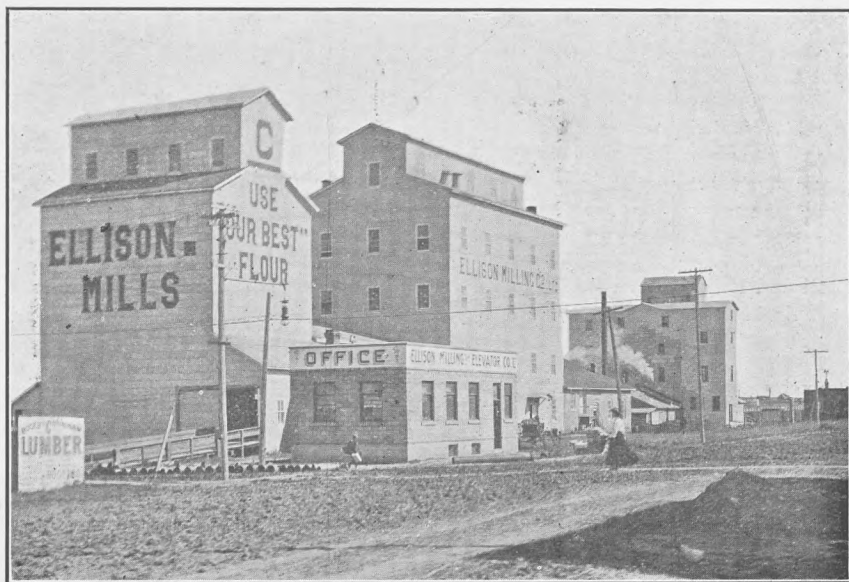
A SOUTHERN ALBERTA FARMER'S NEW HOME NEAR LETHBRIDGE

LAW AND ORDER

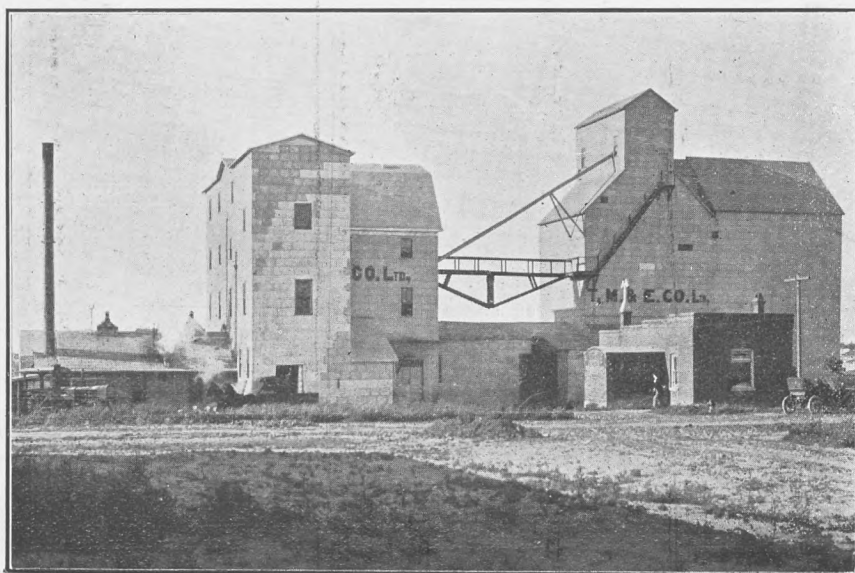
The Canadian laws are fair and just, and are enforced without fear or favor. The Mounted Police, the headquarters of "K" Division being at **LETHBRIDGE**, cover the country thoroughly and the bad man of the wild and woolly west is unknown here.

Cattle stealing and other crimes, often supposed to belong with the West, are rarely heard of here, and life and property are as safe as on any farm in the East.

MUCH ALBERTA WHEAT IS MILLED AT HOME



ELLISON MILLING Co.'s MILLS AT LETHBRIDGE



TAYLOR MILLING Co.'s MILL AT LETHBRIDGE

PRICES AND TERMS FOR LAND

In the district there is no railroad or government land for sale, but private individuals and land companies, of which there are a number in **LETH-BRIDGE**, have plenty of land for sale.

Prices vary according to the owner and the location of the land. Land about 25 miles from the railroad sells for \$14 to \$18; fifteen miles from the rail the price will be about \$18 to \$20; seven or eight miles from the rail, \$20 to \$25, and still nearer the rail, \$25 up, this all being good wheat land.

Irrigated land sells for \$50 up.

The actual settler who will go onto the land and improve it by putting in a crop can buy on easy terms and in many cases on crop payments.

TITLES

Land titles are issued by the Government on the Torrens system, and a person holding the Government certificate of title has absolute possession and no trouble to fear from former owners, or any one else.

PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

The following is an average price for the following articles at **LETH-BRIDGE**.

3 1-4 farm w. gon, complete with brake, from	\$90 to \$150.00
20 Marker single disc drill	140.00
8 ft. binder with tongue truck	180.00
5 ft. mower	64.00
12 ft. self dump rake	40.00
Combination stubble and breaker walking plow	29.00
14 in. sulky plow	50.00
14 in. gang plow	75.00
10 bottom big engine gang	830.00
8 bottom big engine gang	715.00
20 horsepower gas tractor	2350.00
16-16 disc harrow complete with tongue truck.....	55.00
60 tooth drag, complete with draw bar	16.00
Fanning mills	40.00

PRICES OF LUMBER

Dimension. per thousand	\$25.00
No. 2 boards, per thousand	20.00
No. 3 boards, per thousand	16.00
Clear XXX Cedar shingles, per thousand	3.75

PRICES OF LIVE STOCK

1,000 pound horses, prairie raised, each.....	\$100.00
1,500 pound horses, prairie raised, each	175.00
Mares 15 to 25 per cent higher	
Good cows	\$50 .00
Hogs, live weight, per lb.	8c

CITY OF LETHBRIDGE

The City of **LETHBRIDGE** is situated in the centre of Sunny Southern Alberta and is the metropolis of the district.

By rail it is 993 miles or 30 hours run from Minneapolis, 763 miles from Winnipeg, 1,483 miles from Chicago, 1,590 miles from St. Louis, 1,356 miles from Omaha, 1,553 miles from Kansas City.

It is a modern, progressive up-to-date city of 14,000 population.

Has municipal owned electric light and power plant, water and sewage system and up-to-date fire brigade and police department.

Wide streets, good cement sidewalks, boulevards and trees.

Churches, Schools, Lodges, Hospitals, Theatres, Business Houses, and Homes, such as are usually found in a modern city.

\$60,000 Y. M. C. A. Building.

Two Daily newspapers, 10 Banks representing a capital of over \$60,000,000

Pay roll over \$200,000 per month.

Six large coal mines within 5 miles of the city.

Flour Mills and Elevators.

Has openings for all kinds of business and manufacturing.

Is the coming city of Alberta.

For further information regarding city or district write the Board of Trade, **LETHBRIDGE, Alberta,**



